(c)by when the remaining work is likely to be completed;

(c) the amount allocated by the centre under this head; and

(d) the amount spent so far under this head?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H, MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Out of targeted length of 149 kms. under Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) in National Highways Development project (NHDP) Phase-I, four laning has been completed for 140.81 kms. as on February, 2008. The balance length is targeted to be completed by September, 2008. Under NHDP Phase III a total length C 265 kms has been included in Jharkhand State for four laning on BOT basis. These works arc yet to be awarded. The targeted date for completion of NHDP Phase III is December, 2013.

(d) and (e) No Project-wise allocation is made. However, a total of Rs. 976.66 crore have been spent upto Febnnry, 200S on four lanirg of National Highways in Jharkhand.

Construction of flyovers

†2292. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be'pleased to state:

(a) the details of the places where flyovers are being constructed in the country with the central assistance as on date;

(b) the amount of central assistance sanctioned for the projects of these flyovers; and

fa) the details thereof, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs). In addition, funds are also provided from the Central Road Fund (CRF) for development of state roads. No flyovers are being constructed in the country from CRF as on date.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Perspective plan for major ports

2293. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized perspective plan for 12 majot ports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for naming major and medium ports in the country; and

(d) the present status of Visakhapatnam Port Trust?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Port Business Plan- with a 20 year perspective for the 12 Major Ports have been prepared. Consultants, selected through the international competitive bidding process were engaged by the respective ports for the purpose. The Port Business Plans address, *inter alia,* the long term vision, goals and strategy

of Ports; Current Port capabilities and recent performance; competitive situation and outlook; new business opportunities and demand forecast; Removing barriers to Ports performance; required investment in Port facilities and equipment; required improvements in hinterland connectivity; financing future investment requirements.

(c) Ports declared as Major Ports under the Indian Ports Act, 1908 are under the administrative control of the Central Government. All other ports, including private ports, collectively known as Non-Major Ports are under the overall jurisdiction of the respective Maritime State Governments.

(d) Visakhapatnam Port Trust is a Major Port.

National Cruise Shipping Policy

2294. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ft is a fact that considering the ever-increasing potential of cruise tourism and consequent development of infrastructure, a comprehensive National Cruise Shipping Policy was on unvil in consultation with various agencies and stakeholders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A High Power Streering Group under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister (Shipping, Road Transport & Highways) with the Union Minister of Tourism & Culture as Co-Chairperson was set up to formulate a cruise shipping policy with the objective of making India a major cruise tourism destination for attracting the right segment of foreign cruise tourists and for popularising cruise shipping, facilitating creation of requisite infrastructure and creating a conducive environment. The policy is under finalization in consultation with the concerned Ministries.

National Highway Projects behind schedule

2295. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many of the National Highway projects are lagging behind schedule;

(b) if so, the details of projects lagging behind schedule and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to complete the projects in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) 143 numbers of National Highway project! under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) as well as 34 number of projects with State PWD each costing more than Rs. 5.00 crore are lagging behind the schedule due to problems associated with acquisition of land, shifting of utilities, delay in environmental and forest clearance, poor performance of some contractors and law & order and insurgency problems in some States.

(c) The Government closely monitors the progress of the construction works of National Highways at various levels through quarterly reviews and also has taken steps like appointing